

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 090256
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 090256

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR, BDIS, TU

SUBJECT: TRADE COMPLAINT: CONTINENTAL GRAIN COMPANY VS
TURKISH GOVT

REF: STATE 77894

1. THEODORE SORENSEN TELEPHONED DEPARTMENT APRIL 7 TO ASK
IF ANY DEVELOPMENTS RE CONTINENTAL GRAIN DISPUTE WITH GOT
HAD COME TO DEPARTMENT'S ATTENTION SINCE LAST CONVERSATION
MARCH 24 (REFTEL). SORENSEN NOTED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED NO
RESPONSE AS YET TO HIS LETTER OF MARCH 21 TO MINISTER OF
AGRICULTURE YUCELER (COPY OF WHICH HE SENT AGATT). IN
MEANTIME HE HAD RECEIVED UNCONFIRMED REPORT THAT TURKS HAVE
SETTLED SIMILAR FINANCIAL OBLIGATION TO FIAT BY AGREEING
TO SUPPLY 400,000 TONS OF WHEAT. HE FOUND THIS REPORT DIS-
QUIETING SINCE HE HAD HOPED GRAIN COMPANY (CONTINENTAL)
WOULD HAVE BEEN GIVEN GREATER CLAIM FOR USE OF TURKISH
WHEAT FOR COMMERCIAL SETTLEMENT PURPOSES THAN WOULD OTHER
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2. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY ATTEMPTING TO CON-
FIRM ACCURACY OF ALLEGED TRANSACTION WITH FIAT AND ALSO
ASCERTAINING WHETHER MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE HAS SENT REPLY
TO SORENSEN. IF REPLY SENT, SUGGEST COPY BE CABLED BY

MINAG TO TURKISH UN MISSION FOR DELIVERY TO SORENSEN AT
EARLY DATE.

3. DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THAT IT WOULD NOW BE APPROPRIATE
FOR AMBASSADOR, IF HE HAS NOT ALREADY DONE SO, TO TAKE UP
MATTER WITH GOT AS WAS DISCUSSED WITH SORENSEN DURING HIS
ANKARA VISIT (ANKARA 1909). SORENSEN IS CONCERNED THAT
"EVENTS MAY PASS CONTINENTAL GRAIN BY" AND THAT EARLY
ACTION IS ESSENTIAL TO PROTECT HIS CLIENT'S INTERESTS.
WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY STATUS REPORT BY CABLE NOT LATER
THAN OPENING OF BUSINESS APRIL 11. VANCE

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